

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Noriyuki TAJIMA et al. Group Art Unit: 3742  
Serial No : 10/596,193 Examiner: P.H. Leung  
Filed : June 2, 2006 Confirmation No.: 3321  
For : HEATING APPARATUS, FIXING APPARATUS AND  
IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS (as previously amended)

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116**

Commissioner of Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop AF  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action of January 25, 2008, in which a three month shortened statutory period for response was set to expire on April 25, 2008, the present Response having been submitted within two months of the date of the Final Office Action (i.e., on or by March 25, 2008), Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, as well as an indication of the allowability of all the claims pending in the present application.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2 of this paper.  
**Remarks** begin on page 5 of this paper.  
**An Appendix** of explanatory Figures is attached hereto.